

June 30, 1940

*The*

# SPIRIT

by **LOUI FISHER**

**BELIEVED DEAD.** DENNY COLT, A YOUNG CRIMINOLOGIST WAS BURIED.. TWENTY FOUR HOURS LATER HE AWOKE, BROKE OUT OF HIS GRAVE, AND AS THE 'SPIRIT' HAS CONTINUED HIS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN, A GRIM DRAMA BEGINS WITH WORDS THAT USUALLY SIGNIFY THE END

**YOUR WIFE WILL DIE IN ONE WEEK UNLESS SHE IS TAKEN TO A DRY CLIMATE.. SAY, ARIZONA!**



THEN, DOCTOR, YOU'D BETTER WRITE OUT HER DEATH CERTIFICATE NOW. I HAVEN'T A CENT FOR TRAVEL MONEY! I'M BROKE!

**NO! NO! WAIT, JOHNNY!**



I'VE BEEN (COUGH) SAVING SOME MONEY.. A FEW PENNIES AT A TIME.. HERE, JOHN, IT'S (COUGH COUGH) IT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT.. TWENTY EIGHT DOLLARS AND FORTY ONE CENTS! THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH!

**DARLING! I-I YEAR SURE! DON'T YOU WORRY!**



TWENTY EIGHT DOLLARS AND FORTY ONE CENTS. HA HA HA!.. FUNNY, ISN'T IT? WHY IT WON'T EVEN PAY YOUR FEES, DOCTOR!



NOW YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.. I'M TOO MUCH OF A FRIEND OF THE MARSTENS TO ACCEPT A FEE FROM YOU! DON'T WORRY, KID, IT'LL WORK OUT.. YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.. THEN THERE'S ALWAYS CHARITY, YOU KNOW.

TH-THANKS, DOC!



CHARITY?... THE FAMOUS MARSTEN NAME ON CHARITY LISTS?... IF ONLY FATHER HADN'T GAMBLLED OUR.. BY HEAVENS! I HAVE IT! I KNOW WHERE I'LL GET IT! YES.. WHAT HAVE I TO LOSE? A LAST CHANCE..





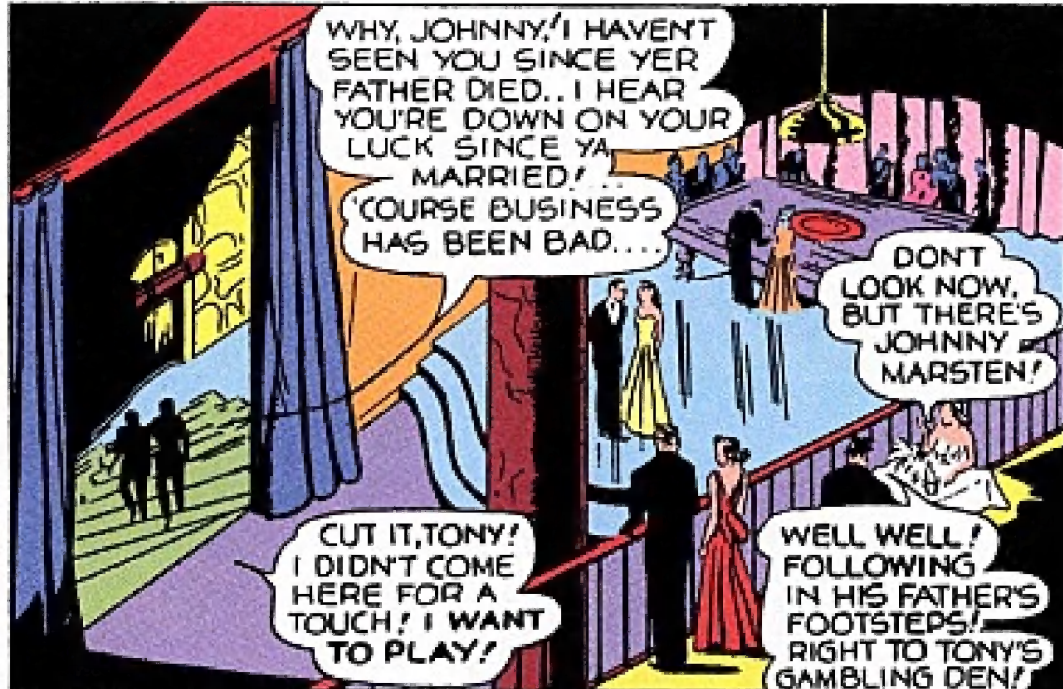
AN HOUR LATER

YEAH? AND WHO ARE YOU?



TELL TONY IT'S JOHNNY..BILLY MARSTEN'S SON HE'LL REMEMBER THE NAME..MY FATHER LOST ENOUGH MONEY HERE..C'MON, LET ME IN! I GOT A WAD, SEE?

MARSTEN? Q.K.KID, COME IN.



WHY, JOHNNY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YER FATHER DIED... I HEAR YOU'RE DOWN ON YOUR LUCK SINCE YA MARRIED! 'COURSE BUSINESS HAS BEEN BAD...

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THERE'S JOHNNY MARSTEN!

CUT IT, TONY! I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A TOUCH! I WANT TO PLAY!

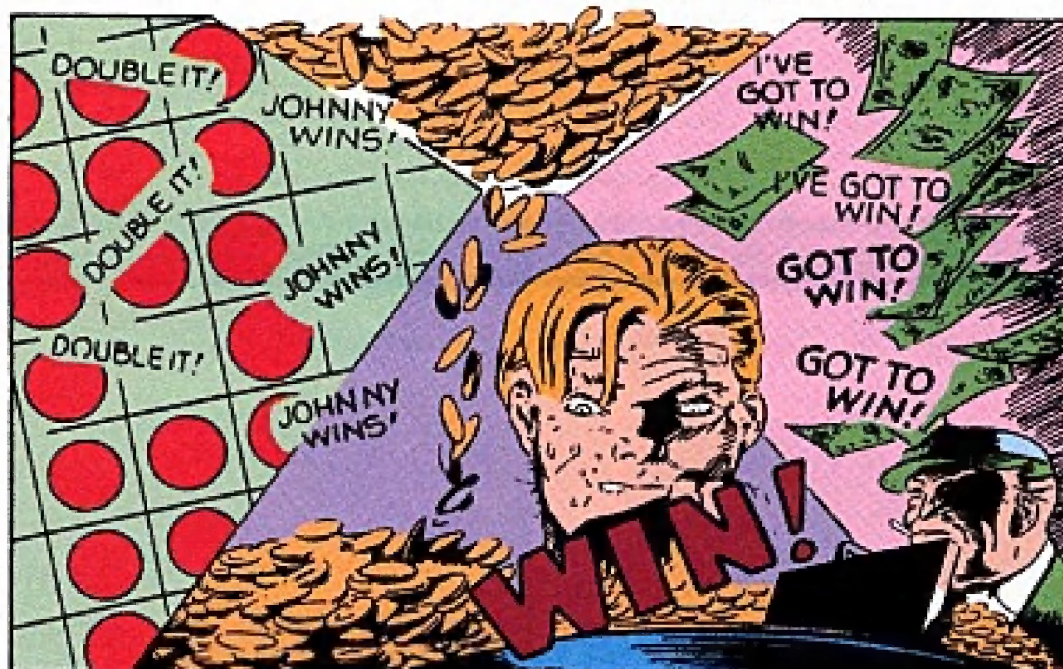
WELL WELL! FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS! RIGHT TO TONY'S GAMBLING DEN!



WHAT'LL IT BE, KID?

\$28.41 ON THE RED!

RED IT IS! YOU WIN, MARSTEN!



DOUBLE IT!

JOHNNY WINS!

DOUBLE IT!

JOHNNY WINS!

DOUBLE IT!

JOHNNY WINS!

I'VE GOT TO WIN!

I'VE GOT TO WIN!

GOT TO WIN!

GOT TO WIN!

WIN!

HOUR AFTER HOUR..THE DICE ROLL AND THE ROULETTE SPINS A GOLDEN WEB, CHAINING JOHNNY TO HIS CHAIR EVEN AFTER THE REST LEAVE



I'VE ENOUGH!! A THOUSAND DOLLARS! I'M GOING HOME. NOW MY WIFE WILL LIVE!



AH.. JUST A MINUTE, KID! I THINK MAYBE YOU'D BETTER PLAY ONE MORE HAND WITH MY DECK!

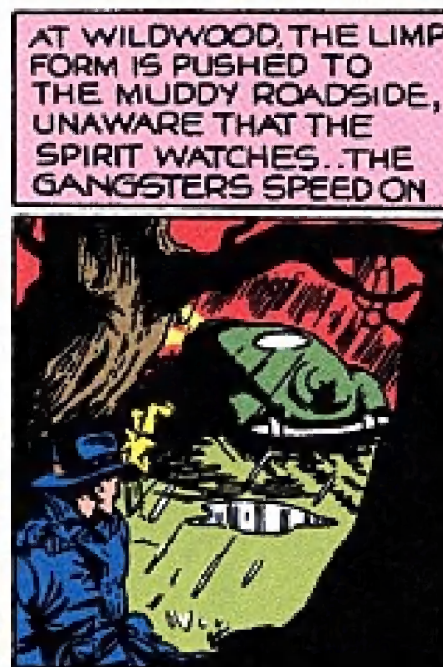
I WON IT! NO, I KNOW YOUR TRICK..YOU'RE GONNA WIN IT BACK!



LOOK HERE, SUCKER! I'M IN THIS RACKET TO MAKE DOUGH..NO ONE THAT'S BROKE CAN COME IN HERE AND CLEAN UP A GRAND! NOW BEAT IT! OR DOES MONK THROW YOU OUT?

YOU CROOK! CROOK!







AT POLICE  
HEAD-  
QUARTERS

HELLO! WHO?  
THE SPIRIT?  
YEAH. WHAT?  
THE GAMBLING  
RACKET! TAKE  
MY ADVICE  
AND LAY OFF!

RRRING!



NO, I'M NOT SCARED, BUT  
THOSE GUYS HAVE  
INFLUENCE. BESIDES,  
EVERY TIME WE RAID  
THEM THEY JUST START  
SOMEWHERE ELSE.  
WHAT? OF COURSE I'D  
LIKE TO GET SOMETHING  
ON ONE OF 'EM! O.K.  
O.K. ... I HOPE  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING!



LATER



YEAH?  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

THE SPIRIT!  
OPEN UP!



DON'T STRUGGLE!  
A LITTLE FRESH AIR  
WON'T  
HURT  
YOU!



A MASKED  
MAN!

HOLD-  
UP?



JUST CONTINUE WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN...  
I JUST WANT TO  
PLAY FARO!

DEAL, PAL!  
AND DEAL  
STRAIGHT!



YOU CLEANED US  
OUT. THE BANK  
IS BROKE!

AN  
HOUR  
PASSES

THE PILE  
OF CHIPS  
AND MONEY  
SHIFTS TO  
THE SPIRIT'S  
TABLE.

LEAVING A DUMBFOUNDED  
AUDIENCE, THE SPIRIT CALMLY  
WALKS OFF. HIS POCKETS  
BULGING WITH MONEY...



AMAZING!

NEVER  
BEEN DONE  
BEFORE!

FIFTY  
THOUSAND!  
NOT BAD  
FOR A  
START!



DIAMOND DEN!  
THANKS!  
YOU WON!

WELL,  
I'LL BE!

HE BROKE  
THE  
BANK!

WANT TO  
PLAY ANOTHER  
HAND?

CAN'T!  
THE  
HOUSE  
IS BROKE!

HMM \$300,000!  
NOT BAD, JUST  
ONE MORE  
PLACE TO  
VISIT!

CLOSE UP THE  
JOINT! THAT  
GUY JUST  
BROKE THE  
BANK!

HELLO... HELLO,  
MIKE? ROUND UP  
THE BOYS. THE  
SPIRIT IS CLEANING  
UP THE TOWN! WE  
GOTTA STOP HIM!



AT TONY'S GAMBLING DEN, THE FRIGHTENED GAMBLERS MEET TO STOP THE SPIRIT. . . .



HE'S COMING HERE!

CLEARED UP 800 GRAND IN THREE HOURS!

**SHUT UP!** ALL OF YOU! WE'LL SET A TRAP.. CLEAR THE HOUSE..WE'LL BE "GUESTS"!



AS THE SPIRIT ENTERS "TONY'S" A GRIM SILENCE GREET'S HIM.

OH! A RECEPTION COMMITTEE!

AH! COME IN, MR. SPIRIT!



THE BOYS AROUND TOWN TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY LUCKY.. LIKE TO PLAY WITH ME?

CERTAINLY! DEAL...



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WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED, A GUN FLIPS INTO THE SPIRIT'S HAND!

DEALING FROM THE BOTTOM!

OOOW



WHY YOU..! LET HIM HAVE IT, BOYS!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE FOOL ENOUGH TO TRY A CROOKED GAME WITH ME!



OH..A TRAP! TSK TSK!

BANG

A SPLIT SECOND LATER THE SPIRIT DIVES



FOLLOW HIM!

HEY, BOSS! HE SWIPED ALL THE DOUGH!



HE WON'T GET AWAY! I GUESSED HE'D BEAT IT, SO I GOT THE WHOLE MOB OUT IN CARS. STEP ON IT! I WANNA BE THERE WHEN THEY CROAK HIM!



THROUGH THE CITY STREETS THE SPIRIT RACES.

BANG

OH! OH! WAITING FOR ME!

WITH TWO CARS RACING AFTER HIM, HE HEADS NORTH ACROSS THE SQUARE

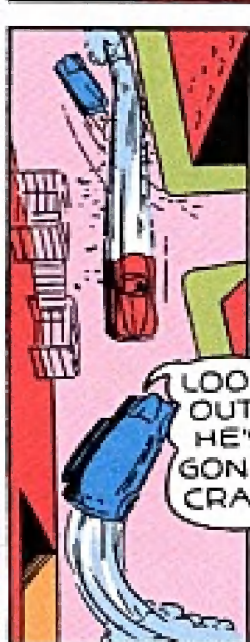
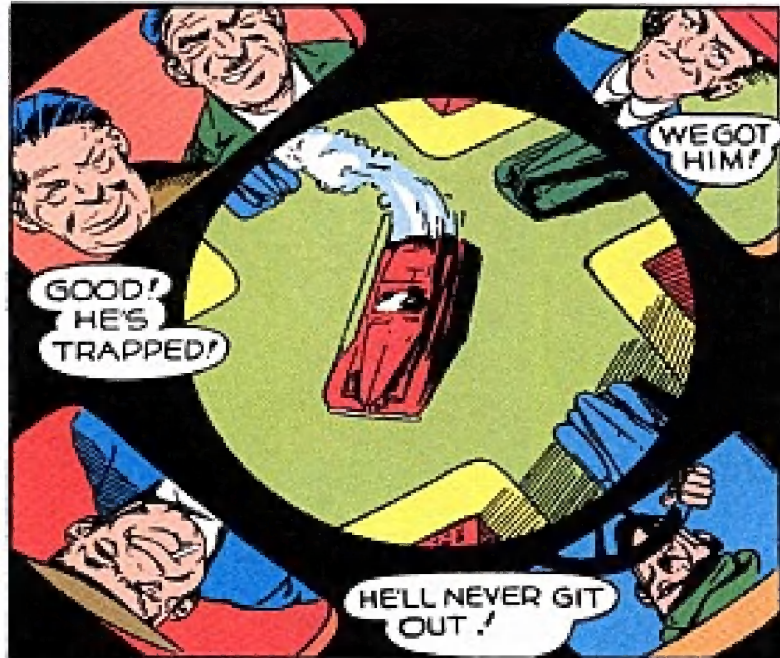


WHEW! ANOTHER!



ONCE AGAIN HE SWERVES, BUT EACH STREET IS COVERED. THE GANG CARS CLOSE IN.. **THE SPIRIT IS TRAPPED!**







BEFORE HE DIED, HE WROTE OUT THIS STATEMENT... SAYING THAT YOU AND MONK BEAT HIM UP AND DROPPED HIM IN WILDWOOD... 'COURSE MONK WAS KILLED IN THE AUTO CRASH, SO...

MONK'S DEAD?! HE DID IT! MONK ... I TRIED TO STOP HIM. BUT MONK WAS ALWAYS A KILLER! I-I ADMIT I ROBBED HIM.

O.K. LET MONK IN!

I HEARD YA! YOU SQUEALIN' RAT! COMMISSIONER, I'LL TELL THE WHOLE STORY NOW!

MONK'S ALIVE?!

NOW THAT THEY'VE SIGNED THEIR CONFESSION, I GUESS I'D BETTER GET HOME TO MY WIFE!

MARSTEN!

ALIVE!

THOSE TWO WILL GET A NICE STRETCH FOR INTENDED MURDER! GOOD LUCK, KID. AND REMEMBER, KEEP AWAY FROM GAMBLING, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN A JAM!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, LONG AFTER SUNDOWN, A MAILMAN PACES NERVOUSLY BEFORE WILDWOOD CEMETERY.

WELL, I'LL BE...

THE ONLY ADDRESS ON THIS LETTER IS, THE SPIRIT, WILDWOOD CEMETERY!

...MUST BE A JOKE, OR...

GONE!

Dear Spirit:

I will never be able to thank you enough for saving my wife's life. That's just what you did when you helped me get that money I am keeping only a little of the money, the rest is going to charity. I expect a job soon and the doctors here say that my wife has a chance.

God Bless you.

John Marsten  
anytime

FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF THE SPIRIT.....